

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION**

In re: FIELDWOOD ENERGY LLC, <i>et al.</i>, Debtors.¹	§ § § § § § §	Chapter 11 Case No. 20-33948 (MI) (Jointly Administered)
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**EMERGENCY MOTION OF DEBTORS FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER AUTHORIZING
DEBTORS TO FILE CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS UNDER SEAL**

Emergency relief has been requested. A hearing on this matter is scheduled for Friday, January 29, 2021 at 1:30 pm Central Prevailing Time.

Audio communication will be by use of the Court's dial-in facility. You may access the facility at (832) 917-1510. You will be responsible for your own long distance charges. Once connected, you will be asked to enter the conference room number. Judge Isgur's conference room number is 954554.

You may view video via GoToMeeting. To use GoToMeeting, the Court recommends that you download the free GoToMeeting application. To connect, you should enter the meeting code "JudgeIsgur" in the GoToMeeting app or click the link on Judge Isgur's home page on the Southern District of Texas website. Once connected, click the settings icon in the upper right corner and enter your name under the personal information setting.

Hearing appearances must be made electronically in advance of the hearing. To make your electronic appearance, go to the Southern District of Texas website and select "Bankruptcy Court" from the top menu. Select "Judges' Procedures," then "View Home Page" for Judge Isgur. Under "Electronic Appearance" select "Click here to submit Electronic Appearance". Select the case name, complete the required fields and click "Submit" to complete your appearance.

If you object to the relief requested or you believe that emergency consideration is not warranted, you must either appear at the hearing or file a written response prior to the hearing. Otherwise, the Court may treat the pleading as unopposed and grant the relief requested.

Relief is requested not later than January 29, 2021.

¹ The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, as applicable, are: Fieldwood Energy LLC (6778), Fieldwood Energy Inc. (4991), Fieldwood Onshore LLC (3489), Fieldwood SD Offshore LLC (8786), Fieldwood Energy Offshore LLC (4494), Fieldwood Offshore LLC (2930), GOM Shelf LLC (8107), FW GOM Pipeline, Inc. (8440), Galveston Bay Procession LLC (5703), Galveston Bay Procession LLC (0422), Fieldwood Energy SP LLC (1971), Dynamic Offshore Resources NS, LLC (0158), Bandon Oil and Gas, LP (9266), and Bandon Oil and Gas GP, LLC (9172). The Debtors' primary mailing address is 2000 W. Sam Houston Parkway S., Suite 1200, Houston, TX 77042.

Fieldwood Energy LLC (“**Fieldwood**”) and its debtor affiliates, as debtors and debtors in possession in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (collectively, the “**Debtors**”), respectfully submit this Emergency Motion for Entry of an Order Authorizing Debtors to File Confidential Documents Under Seal (“**Motion**”). For the reasons detailed herein, the Debtors respectfully request that this Court grant the Motion.

Background

1. Commencing on August 3, 2020 (the “**Petition Date**”), the Debtors each filed with this Court a voluntary case under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.

2. The Debtors continue to operate their businesses and manage their properties as debtors in possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code.

3. The Debtors’ chapter 11 cases are being jointly administered for procedural purposes only pursuant to Rule 1015(b) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “**Bankruptcy Rules**”) and Rule 1015-1 of the Bankruptcy Local Rules for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas (the “**Bankruptcy Local Rules**”).

4. On August 18, 2020, the United States Trustee for Region 7 (the “**U.S. Trustee**”) appointed an official committee of unsecured creditors (and as may be reconstituted from time to time, the “**Creditors’ Committee**”) pursuant to section 1102 of the Bankruptcy Code. No trustee or examiner has been appointed in these chapter 11 cases.

Jurisdiction and Venue

5. This Court has jurisdiction to consider this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1334. This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b). Venue is proper before this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

Relief Requested

6. By this Motion, pursuant to sections 105(a) and 107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, Bankruptcy Rule 9018, and Rule 9037-1 of the Bankruptcy Local Rules for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas (as amended, the “**Local Rules**”), the Debtors request: (i) authority to file under seal confidential documents, as detailed in **Appendix A** (“**Confidential Documents**”), (ii) direction that the Confidential Documents remain under seal and not be made available to anyone without the prior written consent of the Debtors; and (iii) related relief.

7. A proposed form of order granting the relief requested herein is annexed hereto (the “**Proposed Order**”).

Relief Requested Should Be Granted

8. Section 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code codifies the Court’s inherent equitable powers and empowers it to “issue any order, process, or judgment that is necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions of this title.” 11 U.S.C. § 105(a). Moreover, pursuant to section 107(b)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Court may authorize the Debtors to file the Confidential Documents under seal by permitting the issuance of an order that protects entities from potential harm that may result from the disclosure of confidential financial information. *See* 11 U.S.C. § 107(b). Specifically, section 107(b) provides, in relevant part, that:

On request of a party in interest, the bankruptcy court shall, and on the bankruptcy court’s own motion, the bankruptcy court may — (1) protect an entity with respect to a trade secret or confidential research, development, or commercial information.

11 U.S.C. § 107(b); *In re Gen. Homes Corp.*, 181 B.R. 898, 903 (Bankr. S.D. Tex. 1995) (“The court has authority to seal court records, in order to protect trade secrets or confidential research,

development, or confidential information, or to protect a person with regard to a scandalous or defamatory matter.”).

9. Bankruptcy Rule 9018 sets forth the procedures by which a party may obtain a protective order authorizing the filing of a document under seal. Bankruptcy Rule 9018 provides, in relevant part, that “[o]n motion, or on its own initiative, with or without notice, the court may make any order which justice requires (1) to protect the estate or any entity in respect of a trade secret or other confidential research, development, or commercial information.” Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9018.

10. Unlike its counterpart in Rule 26(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, section 107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code does not require an entity seeking such protection to demonstrate “good cause.” *See, e.g., Video Software Dealers Ass’n v. Orion Pictures Corp. (In re Orion Pictures Corp.)*, 21 F.3d 24, 28 (2d Cir. 1994) (holding that a license agreement authorizing a licensee “to reproduce, manufacture, distribute, and sell videocassettes” of three films contained confidential commercial information). Rather, if the material sought to be protected satisfies one of the categories identified in section 107(b), the court is required to protect a requesting party and has no discretion to deny the application. *See In re 50-OffStores, Inc.*, 213 B.R. 646, 655—56 (Bankr. W.D. Tex. 1997) (“The statute, on its face, states that the bankruptcy court is *required* to protect such an entity on request of a party in interest.”) (emphasis in original).

11. Local Rule 9037-1(c) provides that “[a] motion, reply or other document may initially be filed under seal if the filing party simultaneously files a motion requesting that the document be maintained under seal.”

12. In connection with the *Declaration of Erin M. Choi in Support of Debtors’ Emergency Motion to Compel BP Exploration & Production Inc. to Perform Pre-Petition*

Contracts (“**Choi Declaration**”), filed contemporaneously herewith, the Debtors respectfully request the Court permit certain exhibits attached to the Choi Declaration be filed under seal, as set forth below.

13. The Debtors submit that the Confidential Documents fall within the scope of commercial information that may be protected by the Court pursuant to section 107(b)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 9018. Commercial information is information which would result in “an unfair advantage to competitors by providing them information as to the commercial operations of the debtor.” *In re Faucett*, 438 B.R. 564, 567 (Bankr. W.D. Tex. 2010) (citing *Video Software Dealers Ass’n v. Orion Pictures Corp. (In re Orion Pictures Corp.)*, 21 F.3d 24, 27 (2d Cir. 1994)). Commercial information need not rise to the level of a “trade secret” to be protected under section 107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code. *See In re Northstar Energy, Inc.*, 315 B.R. 425, 429 (Bankr. E.D. Tex. 2004) (“A bankruptcy court is required to seal documentary information filed in court that does not rise to the level of a trade secret but that is so critical to the operations of the entity seeking the protective order that its disclosure will unfairly benefit that entity’s competitors.”). Rather, section 107(b)’s protections extend to commercial information that, if disclosed to the public, could be used by various parties for an unfair advantage. *In re Orion Pictures Corp.*, 21 F.3d at 27—28. Once a court determines that a party in interest is seeking to protect “commercial information,” the court “is required to protect a requesting interested party and has no discretion to deny the application.” *Id.* at 27. The Confidential Documents contain sensitive and proprietary commercial information about Debtors’ material assets and contracts, which could give competing oil and gas companies an unfair advantage.

Emergency Consideration

14. The Debtors respectfully request emergency consideration of this Motion. The Debtors must ensure the Confidential Documents are sealed on the docket as soon as possible to protect confidential financial information, and similar information.

No Previous Request

15. No previous request for the relief sought herein has been made by the Debtors to this or any other court.

WHEREFORE the Debtors respectfully request entry of the Proposed Order granting the relief requested herein and such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and appropriate.

Dated: January 27, 2021
Houston, Texas

/s/ Alfredo R. Pérez

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Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

Certificate of Accuracy

I certify that the facts and circumstances described in the above pleading giving rise to the emergency request for relief are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

/s/ Alfredo R. Pérez

Alfredo R. Pérez

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that, on January 27, 2021, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served as provided by the Electronic Case Filing System for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas.

/s/ Alfredo R. Pérez

Alfredo R. Pérez

Appendix A**Confidential Documents**

Choi Decl. Ex. No.	Description
A	Galapagos Area Loop Subsea Production System Construction and Operating Agreement, dated December 1, 2011, and all exhibits and amendments thereto
B	Production Handling and Operating Services Agreement, dated September 21, 2010, and all exhibits and amendments thereto
G	Debtors' Letter to BP, dated November 3, 2020